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## **Genes and the Patent Mechanism**

### **Abstract**

The paper uses results from the endogeneous growth theory , and from the body of the specific economic analysis of patent mechanisms (contributed by Nelson , Shapiro , Gallini , Scotchmer , Chang , etc.) to show that , on balance , it is not economically efficient to patent genes . When they however are patented , their uses should be regulated in the same spirit as "essential facilities" in the economics of public utilities.